

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 03223 020309Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /059 W  
-----129076 022052Z /75  
R 020205Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9065  
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 03223

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, TH  
SUBJECT: THAI MAGAZINE ARTICLE ACCUSES U.S. OF COMPLICITY IN OCT 6  
AFFAIR

SUMMARY: ARTICLE IN NEWLY PUBLISHED THAI LANGUAGE MAGAZINE  
CLAIMS U.S. WAS BEHIND "REACTIONARY GROUPS" WHICH OVERTHREW  
GOVERNMENT ON OCT 6, 1976. ARTICLE CRITICIZES SEVERAL  
HIGH RANKING RTA OFFICERS AND ACCUSES ISOC AND BPP OF  
COLLABORATING WITH THE CIA. MAGAZINE'S STRONG AND DIRECT  
LANGUAGE REPRESENTS CHALLENGE TO NEW GOVERNMENT'S FREE PRESS  
POLICIES. AS DEFENSE TESTIMONY UNFOLDS IN TRIAL OF  
"THAMMASAT 18", MORE PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS CAN BE EXPECTED  
AGAINST THOSE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN THE OCT 6 AFFAIR.  
END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST ISSUE OF THAI LANGUAGE WEEKLY MAGAZINE, "TAWAN  
MAI" (NEW SUN), DATED FEB 3, 1978, CARRIES ARTICLE  
CHARGING THE U.S. SUPPORTED REACTIONARY GROUPS WHICH OVERTHREW  
THAILAND'S DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT ON OCT 6,  
1976. MAGAZINE ARTICLE, WHICH INCLUDES SEVERAL  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 03223 020309Z

GRUESOME PHOTOS OF THE VIOLENCE WHICH OCCURRED AT  
THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY PRIOR TO THE OCT 6 COUP, CLAIMS  
"MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES COLLABORATED WITH OTHER  
RIGHTIST GROUPS TO OVERTHROW THAILAND'S DEMOCRATIC  
ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM. . .AND THAT IT IS GENERALLY  
KNOWN THAT THE U.S. WAS BEHIND THE ACTIONS OF THOSE  
REACTIONARY GROUPS."

2. "TAWAN MAI" IS PUBLISHED BY PRICHA SAMAKHITHAM, A JOURNALIST WHO FORMERLY SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF THAILAND. PRIOR TO OCT 6, 1976, PRICHA HAD SERVED AS A SPECIAL CONSULTANT TO THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF THAILAND AND THE MODERATELY LEFTIST NEW FORCE PARTY.

3. THE ARTICLE LEVELS CRITICISM AT SEVERAL HIGH RANKING RTA OFFICERS AND ACCUSES THE INTERNAL SECURITY OPERATIONS COMMAND (ISOC) AND THE BORDER PATROL POLICE (BPP) OF "COOPERATING CLOSELY" WITH THE CIA, USING STATEMENTS OF SENIOR THAI OFFICIALS IN 1974 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

4. THE ARTICLE ALSO CLAIMS THAT "TAWAN MAI" HAS RECEIVED A COPY OF A MEMO WHICH "DISCLOSES THE TRUTH REGARDING THE OCTOBER 6 INCIDENT." THE MEMO IS NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED, BUT MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE BODY OF EVIDENCE BEING AMASSED BY THE TEAM OF LAWYERS CURRENTLY DEFENDING THE "THAMMASAT 18" IN COURT. ALTHOUGH MOST THAIS WOULD DOUBTLESS PREFER TO ALLOW MEMORIES OF THE VIOLENCE AND DISORDER OF OCT 6 TO FADE, IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT, AS DEFENSE ATTORNEYS ATTEMPT TO SHIFT BLAME AWAY FROM THEIR CLIENTS, THE TRIAL WILL SERVE TO REVIVE BITTER MEMORIES AND ACRIMONY. WITH A FREE PRESS ACTIVELY REPORTING THE COURT PROCEEDINGS, FURTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 03223 020309Z

PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE MADE AGAINST THOSE WHO WERE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN THE OCT 6 AFFAIR.

COMMENT: SUCH STRONG AND DIRECT LANGUAGE AS USED IN TAWAN MAI ARTICLE REPRESENTS A CHALLENGE TO THE THAI MILITARY AND TO THE KRIANGSAK GOVERNMENT'S FREE PRESS POLICIES. ARTICLE MAY BE A PROBING EFFORT TO SEE HOW TOLERANT THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE OF CRITICISM FROM THE FOURTH ESTATE.

WHITEHOUSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, MAGAZINES, ALLEGATIONS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BANGKO03223  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780050-0716  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t197802103/aaaadizs.tel  
**Line Count:** 104  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 90796dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3435788  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THAI MAGAZINE ARTICLE ACCUSES U.S. OF COMPLICITY IN OCT 6 AFFAIR SUMMARY: ARTICLE IN NEWLY PUBLISHED THAI LANGUAGE  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, TH, US, CIA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/90796dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014